

RESOLUTION 99-01


**OPPOSING LEGISLATION THAT
WOULD PROHIBIT CONSIDERATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN CITIZENS
AS ADOPTIVE OR FOSTER PARENTS**

- WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the Indiana General Assembly to prohibit homosexuals from adopting children; and
- WHEREAS, recognizing that adoption is not a right and that the guiding principle must be the best interests of the child, the State of Indiana maintains careful screening procedures for potential adoptive parents, taking into account a wide range of factors including sexual orientation, with the decision ultimately requiring favorable review by a State agency as well as a judge's order; and
- WHEREAS, a recent statewide, scientific poll conducted by Indiana University's Center for Survey Research showed a large majority -- 76% -- of Hoosiers believe that decisions regarding adoption by gays and lesbians should be left to the parents and professionals involved in each case, rather than being made by State law; and
- WHEREAS, our state needs capable, loving parents to care for children who have been orphaned, neglected, or abused; and
- WHEREAS, we recognize that many gay and lesbian citizens of our city and state already serve as natural or adoptive parents, and that there is no credible evidence that they are, as a group, any less capable of being good parents than heterosexuals; and
- WHEREAS, the legislation being considered in the General Assembly appears to be poorly crafted and raises troubling questions, in that it leaves undefined how a potential adoptive parent may be determined by the State to be a "homosexual"; and
- WHEREAS, the legislation being considered infringes on the rights of all families to designate the best family member or other person to raise a child in the event of a birth-parent's death; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has adopted as its public policy the principle that it is wrong to discriminate against its citizens on the basis of sexual orientation, recognizing that it is unjust to deny our citizens rights or responsibilities based solely on prejudice, stereotypes, misinformation, or lack of understanding;

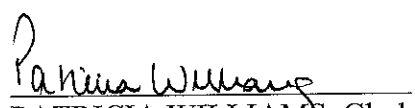
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Common Council opposes and urges rejection of any proposal to bar our gay and lesbian citizens from consideration as adoptive parents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 17th day of February, 1999.


TIMOTHY MAYER, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:


PATRICIA WILLIAMS, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this
18th day of February, 1999.

Patricia Williams
PATRICIA WILLIAMS, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 18th day of February, 1999.

John Fernandez
JOHN FERNANDEZ, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution opposes any legislation that would bar gay and lesbian citizens from being considered as adoptive or foster parents.